

# The Semaphore

A PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS





# TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

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Cover: Joe Butler's rendering of 224 Filbert Street, one of the buildings in the Telegraph Hill Historical District, see page 15.

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# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Paul Scott

So the other day, I was sitting in Caffè Trieste when I happened to tune into a debate between two old friends. You've probably heard of them—Chuckie D. and Carl S. Strangely enough, they were talking about the triangle park and the meaning of life in the same conversation. It seemed like a stretch. They had zoomed back—way back—to the point I wondered if the park was really even relevant to their discussion at all, but somehow it all seemed to come together in the end.

Chuckie, a dour old guy with a bald head and long white beard, was saying he was a “complete disbeliever.” Even more worryingly, he seemed to be arguing that there were no universal principles of right and wrong. Our moral sense, he said, is just a reflection of our social instincts, including sympathy, which have permitted us to survive through natural selection. Humans with the ability to control their selfish survival urges sufficiently to function in a group have simply been more likely to survive than humans that lack such social instincts. Accordingly, while our moral sense may explain why we are here, it does nothing to explain our purpose. It is no more important than our eyes or ears in terms of a justification for our existence. So who cares about the fate of the triangle? There is no ultimate right answer.

Not a great conclusion, eh? I got done listening to that, and I felt like driving through a green light without looking both ways. It was amoral and pointless. Not exactly a rationale for getting out of bed in the morning, let alone fighting the



good fight. My problem was that I have always sort of tended to agree with Samuel Johnson's theory of religion: “Faith is believing something you know ain't true.” So Chuckie was kind of beguiling me with his somber reality pitch. Things were looking grim.

But then Carl piped in. He's a much cheerier guy, dresses a little snazzier, clean shaven, full head of hair, pretty self-assured. Kept on talking about billions of this and billions of that. He seemed to believe in something. While he was dismissive of any ideas of an after-life and proclaimed that all major religions were spouting nonsense, that still didn't seem to faze him. He started talking about the cosmos being all that is or was or ever will be. I couldn't understand exactly what he meant by that at first, but after he went on a bit, I ultimately think I got it. It seems he was saying that our religious sensibilities — our notions of nobility and goodness, our sense of triumph and the sublime—can all potentially resonate with the physical laws of nature, but we're just not there yet. His way out of Chuckie's swamp was more or less a spirituality of evolution, with a little faith in human enterprise thrown in. We're a pretty clever bunch, us humans. Sooner or later, we'll figure out the sum total of all natural laws, and then we'll have a justification for the whole thing.

Not quite as dreary as what old Chuckie had to say, but more than a little daunting. I'm a lawyer. When I write a brief, I've got a point to make. I lay out all the facts, I organize my arguments, and at the end, I have a conclusion. There is a reason for everything I've included in the brief. That is what I would like my life to be like. I like to know where I am going, so my day-to-day actions can be consistent with the end

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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objective. But assuming I go for happy-go-lucky Carl's reasoning, what the heck do I do today? How does figuring out the physical order of the entire universe jibe with tickling my daughter, taking my son to play hockey, or figuring out what to do with a small triangle of asphalt?

Though Carl didn't specifically say it, I think he effectively implied the answer—sustainability in its most macro sense. While I can conclusively say I have no idea what the hang is going on when I zoom back, I can also say with some certainty that I sure would like to know, and if it can be figured out in my lifetime, then I would like my kids, or their kids, or some distant progeny to have a shot.

If the cosmos is all that is or was or ever will be, then it defines our endeavor as an enormous, mind-boggling mystery, waiting for us,

as a community of creatures, to slowly unravel it. Some will be more equal to that task than others. Some, like the kids who kicked my butt in physics, will dedicate their lives to the cause. But others will have to make that possible.

That, of course, is where the idea of sustainability comes in. While Carl and his crowd are chalking things out, someone has to pay attention to the air Carl breathes and the water he drinks.

Someone has to preserve an environment in which his kids and theirs and generations to come can grow and thrive and bring new wisdom to us all. And sometimes little parks are just symbolic little steps—trivial alone but cumulatively meaningful—toward that larger fundamental goal.

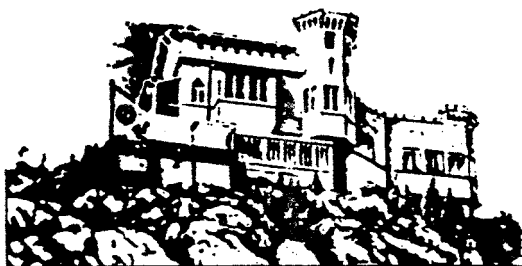


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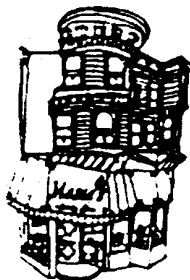


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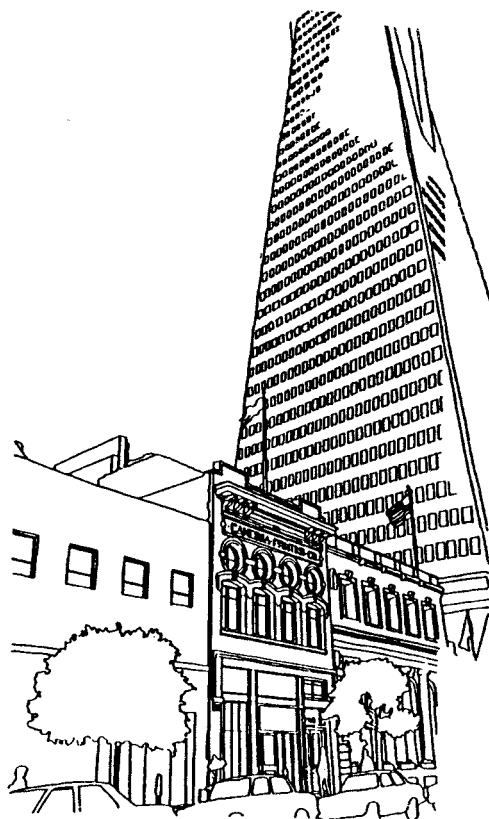
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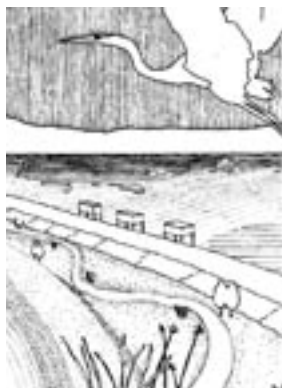


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# Report from the Waterfront

By Vedica Puri

## Piers 27-31

Unless some dramatic developments took place at the October 12 meeting of the Port Commission (after the Semaphore went to press) the news from Piers 27-31 is old news.

For those who may have been on an extended European vacation, here's a recap:

The Port has awarded exclusive right to negotiate regarding the development of Piers 27-31 to the Mills Corporation. Mills has proposed a "recreation" project that would dedicate the vast majority of the indoor space at Piers 27-31 to retail restaurant and office uses, rather than recreation. Mills Corporation ([www.millscorp.com](http://www.millscorp.com)) is a national conglomerate specializing in "retail and entertainment" destinations, otherwise known as malls.

Telegraph Hill Dwellers and numerous other local organizations, including Citizens to Save the Waterfront and the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods, have objected to the proposed mix of uses at the piers and expressed concern about the very serious transit, traffic and parking problems that a project of this size and scope will cause. In response to a request from the mayor's office, a minimum set of criteria was drafted as a guide for the development of an acceptable project. Those criteria were outlined in the Summer 2004 Semaphore. To date, Mills has not met the minimum set of criteria adopted by THD and other local organizations.

At the Oct. 12, Mills was to present a revised site alternative plan and financial terms of the deal were also to be presented.

At a Sept. 8 meeting of the Northeast Waterfront Advisory Group (NEWAG)—an advisory committee to the San Francisco Port Commission)—Kirk Bennett reported on behalf

of the Port that Mills and the Port had not yet agreed on a revised plan or financial terms.

The Port Commission staff is currently preparing a draft Environmental Impact Report that will assess the impact the proposed development will have on the surrounding community. As part of this effort, the Port has also commissioned a special transportation study to be paid for by Mills and the Stanford Hotel that will study transportation along the Embarcadero. The firm conducting the study is Nelson/Nyguard.

A separate analysis is also being performed by traffic expert David Parisi, who has been retained by some of the local organizations looking for an independent perspective on the project. Parisi's preliminary analysis estimates that the current plan for Piers-27-31 will bring approximately 7,400 cars daily to the Embarcadero and create massive gridlock.

## Embarcadero Hotel

This proposed hotel (at the corner of The Embarcadero and Broadway) is located within the Northeast Waterfront Historic District. The Port Commission has entered into exclusive negotiations with Embarcadero Hotel Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Stanford Hospitality, to develop a four-star hotel which will comprise several lots from The Embarcadero to Front Street between Broadway and Vallejo. This includes a portion of the Vallejo and Davis Street right-of-ways.

The hotel would contain roughly 260 rooms, two restaurants and a garden that would be private but open, at times, to the public. The hotel would be six stories high (65 feet) except at the corner of the building where it would rise to 81 feet. An environmental impact report is being

*continued on next page*

## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

### THE WATERFRONT *continued from previous page*

prepared and will include a “historic resource evaluation” report. The THD has consistently protested the projects’ lack of conformity with both the Port’s Urban Design Element, the proposal submitted for the project, and the design guidelines for the Northeast Waterfront Historic District. A group made up of nearby residents called The Waterfront Action Group (WAG) is working with THD to resolve these issues as well as traffic and parking issues.

At a hearing on Aug. 31, the Port requested that the developer implement a community action outreach plan over the course of the next three months, at which time the project would be revisited.

To learn more, contact WAG member Diana Taylor at [dianataylor@yahoo.com](mailto:dianataylor@yahoo.com).

### 55 Francisco

Developer Doug Rosenberg (ROK Properties) is proposing to build three stories containing 51 luxury condominiums atop a three-story garage adjacent to the historic McGraw Hill building, also owned by Mr. Rosenberg. Currently, no public hearings are scheduled.

A recent Notice of Environmental Review drew much public response and, as a result, the Major Environmental Analysis Department of the San Francisco Planning Department is requiring the developer to conduct three studies: a traffic impact study, a visual impact study and a shadow study. The developer will select and pay for each consultant’s study. The developer has also applied for a conditional use permit through the Planning Department. A subdivision of air rights is also required to enable the condominium sales.

The THD is working with a group called “Stop 55—Preserve Our Waterfront” which has spearheaded an effort opposed to this develop-

ment and focused on urban design, parking and traffic issues. For more information, call Stop 55 member Vedica Puri at (415) 433-8000. For up-to-date information and pictures, go to Stop 55’s website [www.ziss.com/stop55](http://www.ziss.com/stop55).

### Kirkland Bus Yard

The Kirkland Bus Yard occupies a full block—2.6 acres—bounded by North Point, Beach, Stockton and Powell streets. The site is owned by the city and managed by the Municipal Transportation Agency. Muni, pursuant to state mandate, is developing a new low-emissions bus yard at Caesar Chavez and I-280. In order to fund that site, the city plans on selling the Kirkland site to a private developer. Muni has created an advisory group, comprised of several citizen organizations, to assist them in the planning and development process. A land use study commissioned by Muni in November 2003, concluded that the most profitable development of the site would be high-end condominiums.

At a recent public meeting, the majority of comments centered on the city’s need for affordable housing and the suitability of this site for that purpose. Affordable housing developers have shown a strong interest in the site, the only drawback being the high cost of toxic clean up. Many of those present at the meeting urged Muni to reconsider the most appropriate use of this property. The fast track timeline for the project was also questioned since it left very little time for public input. The project construction, in fact, can not commence until the new bus yard is completed in 2008 or later.

The THD strongly supports development of this site for affordable housing.

### The Exploratorium

*continued on next page*

## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

**THE WATERFRONT** *continued from previous page*

Driven by the need to expand, the venerable nonprofit Exploratorium is considering a move from the Palace of Fine Arts to the Northeast Waterfront. The Exploratorium was in escrow for 2 buildings in the Francisco Office Bay Park - 50 Francisco and 1700 Montgomery which are both on Port land. More recently, this deal appears to have fallen out of escrow and property managers for the Francisco Office Bay Park are leasing to other commercial tenants.

The Exploratorium has engaged Wilson, Sullivan, Meany, developers of the Ferry Building, to discuss with the Port Authority the feasibility of moving the Exploratorium to other Port property.

### Satellite Antennas Atop 1700 Montgomery

Pappas Telecasting Companies is proposing to place six satellite dishes on the roof of 1700 Montgomery behind the current mechanical structure that already exists. As a potential new commercial tenant on Port's property at 1700 Montgomery, Pappas' proposed 10-year lease is conditioned on receiving approval for the dishes. Pappas, through its vice president, Michael

Angelos, presented its plans in September to the Planning & Zoning Committee of the THD and to NEWAG.

THD's primary concern is that the number of satellites not mushroom from the proposed six into many more that envelop the entire rooftop or cause interference. Since these are "receiving" dishes and not transmitting dishes, Pappas said that the dishes will not cause interference for local residents. The dishes will be east-facing since the signal to be received is from Mt. Diablo. At both the NEWAG and THD meetings, Angelos said that Pappas had no current plans to expand. Bennett, on behalf of the Port, also explained that should Pappas intend to add any dishes it would be required to submit the necessary applications to the Port and participate in the community outreach that it conducted this time.

THD has not taken a position on this project.



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# Rhoda Robinson: 1913–2004

By June Fraps

**R**hoda Robinson, long-time THD member, died unexpectedly in her little bougainvillea-covered house July 31. Rhoda bought the fisherman's cottage in 1964, and shortly after was persuaded by Anne Halsted, a neighbor at that time, to join the Hill Dwellers.

That began a long relationship: Rhoda was membership chair for several years, board member for several years, historian, landmarks chair, and for a very long time, THD's archivist. THD's records and other artifacts were housed in Rhoda's capacious basement until a few years ago. She instigated THD's oral history project, hosting training sessions at her house and acting as a mentor to Audrey Tomaselli, the project's current director.

Rhoda was a soft-spoken person, never one to be the center of attention, but the person everyone knew and loved. She did, however, have some very definite likes and dislikes. She couldn't stand answering machines and would never consider having one herself. She had no use for computers either, and could never be persuaded to take the course in emergency disaster response training even when classes were only a block away.

But her loves were legion. She loved gardens and trees, carousels and fireworks, P.G. Wodehouse and 42nd Street Moon. And she was a very good friend to very many people. As anyone who has been in her house can attest, she was also an avid collector, of books, paintings, posters and ephemera of many kinds.

Rhoda hosted tree-plantings in her block, keeping track of trees that didn't make it and making sure that they were replaced. Until recent years, she was an avid garage-sale chaser. I have been the personal beneficiary of a purchase she made at one of these sales: a \$5 cymbidium that



has multiplied innumerable times! (I'm sure that somewhere in Rhoda's meticulously kept files, there's an account of just how many "children" that cymbidium produced.)

Her love of Wodehouse, led her to participate in the hi-jinks of the Wodehouse Society where she had a grand time. After she discovered 42nd Street Moon, the producer of "lost" musicals, she became one of its backers as well.

During World War II—which she considered "her" war—Rhoda ran recreation centers for American servicemen in England for the Red Cross. She collected the stories and the music of that era, and was faithful in corresponding with the friends she made in those years. Her Christmas card list was enormous!

Rhoda will be sorely missed.



# Westward Ho!

## The Day Columbus Arrived on Telegraph Hill

By June Osterberg

October 12, 1957 did not begin as a particularly happy day for Christopher Columbus. First off, the Columbus Day Parade, scheduled for that day—which was expected to include an impressive 200 units—was on the verge of being canceled due to rain.

Secondly, there was a bit of jockeying for official position when, according to Michael Harris writing in the *Chronicle*, the city's official Columbus stand-in, James E. Fields, made his way to the shores of Aquatic Park and found his route blocked by a second Columbus, Agostino Giuntoli, a North Beach restaurant operator. "What's been keeping you?" asked Giuntoli. "God Bless America."

But the great explorer's day was to pick up as members of the Italian-American community and other dignitaries gathered in Pioneer Park at the base of Coit Tower, where a 12-foot bronze sculpture of the man had its official unveiling. The scene at the tower was probably the most impressive since its dedication on October 8, 1933.

Christopher Columbus was a long time in coming to Telegraph Hill. Other American cities had installed Columbus monuments before San Francisco, but this was the first Columbus statue erected west of the Mississippi River.

If there was to be a monument to Columbus in San Francisco there was little question as to where it should be located. The historic part of the city—Telegraph Hill/North Beach—had an extensive concentration of Italians and Italian-Americans. Italian immigrants began coming in substantial numbers in 1880 and settled in northeast San Francisco, where they established a Little Italy that persisted into the 1960s.

The project to bring to the top of Telegraph Hill a monument to the Italian explorer (who at the time was not the subject of the controversy he was later to become) was the Italian colony's big hurrah.

It was the Italian consul general in San Francisco, Pierluigi Alvera, who in 1956 visualized the circular piazza at Coit Tower as a perfect place for a statue of Columbus.

Six months after the consul general's suggestion a Columbus Monument Committee was formed, headed by prominent Italian-Americans and Superior Court judges Walter Carpeneti and John B. Molinari. Italian Ambassador Manlio Brosio was named to an honorary role. The press conference was held at the office of the Italian consulate general.

But non-Italians were also recruited to endorse the project. These included U.S. ambassador to Italy, J.D. Zellerbach; Mayor George Christopher; Gov. Goodwin ("Goodie") Knight; Senator William F. Knowland and Archbishop John J. Mitty.

The committee embarked on a \$50,000 fund drive, a sum that seems quaint by today's standards, but a considerable amount 47 years ago. Signing on as sponsors were the Knights of Columbus, the San Francisco Building Trades Council and the San Francisco Labor Council.

As fund raising progressed, The San Francisco Arts Commission considered the type of design it deemed appropriate. Ugo Graziotti, a local sculptor who had been one of the promoters of the endeavor, had offered the planners his model of a free-form statue honoring the spirit of Columbus, but the commission was awarded instead to another Italian, Vittorio di Colbertaldo, who

*continued on next page*

## COLUMBUS DAY -cont'd from page 12

worked out of Verona. Colbertaldo had offered San Francisco a grand, but more conservative concept of a towering hero with a flowing cape.

Wasting no time, Colbertaldo announced in August of 1957 that he had completed the casting of his design. The work would be shipped to Genoa, where it would be placed aboard the *SS Alessandro Volta* for the trip to America. Colbertaldo accompanied his work when it departed Genoa Aug. 26, arriving in San Francisco on Sept. 25.

On the day of the dedication, the plaza was filled with dignitaries, contingents from both the Italian and American navies—resulting in a two-nation color guard—the Knights of Columbus in their splendid plumed hats and regalia, singers to provide stirring music, and spectators who could find places to watch the ceremony.

After suitable speechmaking it was time for the unveiling of San Francisco's newest monument. According to newspaper accounts, the onlookers stood in "reverent silence" as the bunting (in the colors of both America and Italy) was lifted from the heroic figure of the intrepid voyager.

Then the crowd broke its silence, and the reaction was loud approval. Sculptor Colbertaldo, who had supervised the placement of his creation, took a bow.

In the days that followed there was general satisfaction in the community. While there was some grumbling that the very traditional, idealized figure gazing out to sea was too conventional for avant-garde San Francisco, no one should have found these complaints surprising. Criticizing public art has always been a major spectator sport in San Francisco.



The unveiling of the Columbus Statue on Telegraph Hill is celebrated in 1957.

PHOTO COURTESY SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY.

# From the Desk of Supervisor Peskin

*"Conformity and monotony, even when they are embellished with a froth of novelty, are not attributes of developing and economically vigorous cities."*

— Jane Jacobs, *The Economy of Cities* (1969)



On the occasion of the 50th birthday of this most venerable neighborhood organization, I thought it might be fun to take a look back at what was going on in San Francisco and in the country in the year of its founding, 1954.

Nationally, 1954 was a year full of important social and political developments. It was the year that saw the Supreme Court order the desegregation of schools in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the appearance of the first TV dinner and, much to the chagrin of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, President Eisenhower introducing the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Here in San Francisco, a different cultural revolution was underway. The early 1950's saw an influx of disaffected New York poets and writers settling in North Beach, bringing with them a culture of bohemian irreverence. Led by Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and other "beatniks," as legendary columnist Herb Caen dubbed them, the new bohemians inspired a culture of cool jazz and free-spirited artistry that persisted for years to come.

The year 1954 was also a time of great political transition for the City of San Francisco. At the time, the city was led by Mayor Elmer Robinson (1948-1956) and the political issue of the day was public transportation. (Some things never change, eh?)

In August, the Monorail Engineering & Construction Corp. of North Hollywood presented a report before the S.F. Board of Supervisors on a \$96 million monorail as a solution to San

Francisco's transit problems. Mayor Robinson made clear his opposition to monorail or any other type of overhead transportation as an answer to the City's transportation woes. The mayor also led efforts in the June and November elections to authorize cutbacks in cable car service in order to balance the city's

budget. This all sounds eerily familiar.

Mayor Robinson also had the pleasure of presenting the ceremonial key to the new San Francisco International Airport terminal to Lee Ann Meriwether, Miss California. The key was used only once, to unlock the new terminal. However, the mayor was not the only lucky gentleman making history with a leading beauty of the time in City Hall. 1954 was also the year that saw Joe DiMaggio and Marilyn Monroe wed on the steps of City Hall.

In 1954, our city was visited by a number of foreign leaders, among them the shah of Iran, the president of Turkey and the prime minister of Japan.

That same year, the U.S. Supreme Court effectively ended the San Francisco Housing Authority's "neighborhood pattern" policy of racial segregation when the court refused to hear an appeal of state legal decisions that declared the policy unconstitutional. The Housing Authority promised to comply with the Supreme Court action, but not before the NAACP could call for three members of the Housing Authority to resign over their support for the segregation policy.

In researching the San Francisco of 50 years ago, I was reminded of the old cliché, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." Many of the pressing issues facing our city and our nation then are still present today, albeit

*continued on page 20*

## THE TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

## What's Historic About Telegraph Hill?

By Anne Bloomfield and William Kostura

Telegraph Hill is home to some of the oldest existing structures in San Francisco, several dating from the 1850s and '60s. For the most part, these earliest houses were very basic shelters, usually with single wall construction and probably built by their residents without benefit of architects or contractors. These folk cottages tend to be a story or two deeper on the downhill side. Many have balconies or exterior stairs.

When the 1906 fire reached Telegraph Hill,

the occupants of these homes were ready. With clothes and blankets soaked in horded water and homemade wine, the residents saved their neighborhood, beating out the flames. After the fire, while other areas of the city experienced on-going development, Telegraph Hill remained isolated. Steps, wooden walkways and a hidden network of footpaths developed.

Changes began about 1935. Artists had long known about the cheap rents and the fantastic views but others were encouraged by the paving of Montgomery and Alta Streets in 1931 and Union and Calhoun Streets in 1939-40. The newer buildings, in then-experimental styles, are now considered classics of their types.

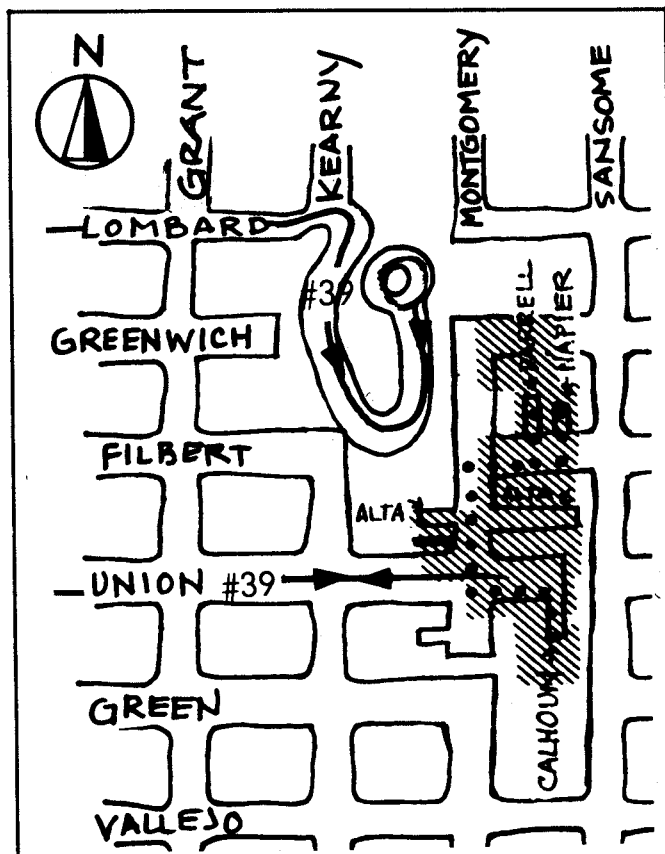
*From the Pocket Guide to Historic Districts of San Francisco, published by the San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau and The Victorian Alliance (no date)*

## What and Where Is the Telegraph Hill Historic District?

By Nancy Shanahan, THD historian

Beginning in the summer of 1980, Telegraph Hill Dwellers undertook the task of creating a historic district covering the 15 blocks at the top of the hill. They hired the preeminent architectural historian, Anne Bloomfield, to research and prepare a case report documenting the historic significance of the area. It took over six years to complete this project, but the Telegraph Hill Historic District was finally signed into law by the Board of Supervisors on

*continued on next page*



from Pocket Guide to the Historic Districts of San Francisco  
SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AND THE VICTORIAN ALLIANCE.

**TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT** *continued*

December 13, 1986. The historic district consists of about 100 properties within the area many of which were saved from the 1906 earthquake and fire. Buildings within the district represent San Francisco's largest group of existing pre-1870 structures. Eleven of them date from before 1860.

Another group of important buildings, built between 1935 and 1941, include several by experimental designers who graduated to fame: Richard Neutra, Wilam Wurster and Gardner Dailey.

Much of the impetus for enacting the historic district ordinance in 1986 came from a battle to preserve the cottage at 221 Filbert in the Grace

Marchant Garden. The owner of the cottage at the time wanted to expand upwards and outwards. There was an outcry from the neighborhood, but because historic district protections were not yet in place, the city was prepared to approve the project.

The neighborhood enlisted the help of the Trust for Public Land, which ended up purchasing the property and reselling it to James and Firouzeh Attwood, the current owners, who were willing to preserve the cottage and garden. They also agreed to subject their property to a preser-

*continued on next page*



291 Union Street



9 Calhoun Terrace

## TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT *continued*

vation easement, permanently limiting the envelope of the structure to its historic configuration and forever protecting the garden between the cottage and the steps. Following this battle, and with the clear intention of avoiding this kind of threat in the future, the Telegraph Hill Historic District was created.

Under the ordinance, the buildings in the district are rated by their architectural significance and integrity. These include “contributory” (buildings dating from the district’s period of significance and retaining their historic integrity), “contributory altered” (where the possibility exists for restoration

to the original condition), and “non-contributory” (outside the period of significance or too altered to be rehabilitated). Contributory buildings are of the highest importance in maintaining the character of the historic district. Appropriate restoration of contributory altered buildings is strongly encouraged to enhance the district’s character.

In order to protect the special character of this area, all exterior alterations and new construction within the district require review under the certificate of appropriateness procedures of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. Altera-

*continued on next page*



1360 Montgomery Street



21 Alta Street

## TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT-*cont'd from page 17*

tions and new construction are required to be compatible with nearby “contributory buildings” and to conform to the ordinance’s specific regulations governing style. Applications for certificates of appropriateness proposing new construction on the cliff areas require geological studies and special findings by the Planning Commission.

## SOME BUILDINGS WORTH LOOKING AT

**1254-1262 Montgomery (1861):** These are a simple pair of units built for grocer George Smith and enlarged in Italianate style about 1887 by hotelier Vincenzo Davolle. These buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**291 Union (1851):** This three-balconied house with store was built for grocer John Cooney. His descendants lived there until 1937.

**66 Calhoun Terrace (1939):** Architect Richard Neutra, one of the founders of the “international style,” designed this building.

**9 Calhoun Terrace (1854):** This building, with Carpenter Gothic elements, was built for David



31 Alta Street

### Historic District Street Signs

To increase public awareness of San Francisco’s historical past and to further enhance the experience of tourists visiting the city, a new ordinance has just been signed into law (sponsored by our District 3 Supervisor Aaron Peskin) requiring the Department of Parking and Traffic to provide information indicating the name of the designated historic district on all street signs located within the boundaries of designated historic districts.

Robinson, physician, actor and manufacturer of bitters.

**1301 Montgomery (1852):** One of the oldest buildings in the district and its only brick building. It was stuccoed about 1900 and used commercially until at least 1928.

**21 Alta Street (about 1862):** This building was owned by Richard Andrews, stevedore. The Italianate structure occupied by Michalsen Grocery was recently restored and its original store entry revealed and retained.

**31 Alta Street (about 1858):** This brick-based  
*continued on next page*

## TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT *continued*

building with wooded upper stories is essentially unchanged. During the 1920s the Telegraph Hill Tavern flourished here.

**60 Alta Street (1935):** Architect William Wurster, founder of the Second Bay Area Tradition Style, built this home for muralist Helen Forbes. It's called Duck House for the exterior frescoes of wild ducks painted by Forbes and Dorsey Puccinelli Cravath. In the 1970s, Armisted Maupin began writing *Tales of the City* in this building.

**1306 Montgomery Street (1936):** Architect Irvine Goldstone with contractors-owners Jack and Ralph Mulloch constructed these Art Deco apartments. Murals of California history and economics are by Alfred Dupont.

**230 Filbert Street (1858):** This clapboard cottage was built by owner William F. Ross, laborer and longshoreman. It remains essentially unchanged.

**228 Filbert Street (1869):** Phillip Brown, a stevedore, owned this Gothic Revival house and grocery store. It is known as the Captain's House.

**224 Filbert/8 Napier Lane (1859):** This was built by owner Michael Thornton as his grocery and residence. Shingles were added in 1968. This was the home of Grace Marchant while she created and tended the Grace Marchant Gardens during the 1950s.

**Napier Lane (formally Billings Place):** This is the only boardwalk surviving in the historic district and one of the few left in San Francisco.

**10 Napier Lane (1837):** The owners were Murty and John Clark, teamster and warehouse laborer respectively. The Italianate front was added about 1887. This is the oldest house on the lane, vying for the fourth oldest in the district and still essentially unchanged. [See picture on page 25.]

**22 Napier Lane (about 1875):** This folk cottage

was owned by Timothy O'Brien, longshoreman.

**221 Greenwich Street (1857):** This building was owned and likely built by longshoreman George Mitchell.

**237 Greenwich Street (1857):** Longshoreman John McDonough owned and built this structure. [See picture on page 25.]



228 Filbert Street.

*Building descriptions were researched and written by Anne Bloomfield with additional contributions from Joe Lutrell and Nancy Shanahan.*



# TELEGRAPH HILL TREASURE HUNT

In the summer issue of the *Semaphore* we published this photo and the following clue to its identity. The clue was developed by Jayson Wechter for his Chinese New Year TreasureHunt.

## Clue:

*Where Michael Moore shot people bowling, there's a dog who will lead you to Victor.*

*Come then, and read my palm, and note what is written there, for it is sometimes full of rhyme (but not reasons), joy and lament, visions and dreams and foggy nights of long ago.*

**ANSWER:** The Poets' Corner plaque at the corner of Grant and Filbert

**EXPLANATION:** Identifying Michael Moore's film *Bowling for Columbine* led you to Columbine Florist, at 1541 Grant Ave.,

between Union and Filbert. Above the window of a storefront across the street is Nipper, the RCA Victor dog. He is facing north, towards the sign for

Victor's Restaurant, a defunct business. At the corner, embedded in the sidewalk, is a bronze plaque in the shape of a human palm inscribed "Poet's Corner," along with the "Y" like symbol of City Lights Books. City Lights Publishing was originally based in the building on that corner, until it moved to the second floor of the bookstore of the same name at Columbus and Kerouac. The plaque was designed and cast by noted North Beach artist Danny Macchiarini, of Macchiarini Creative Design and Jewelry, whose father, artist Peter Macchiarini, founded the

Upper Grant Avenue Street Fair in the early 1950s. It later became the North Beach Fair.



## SUPERVISOR PESKIN *cont'd from page 14*

with different stripes. The issues of racial equality, appropriate entertainment venues and, yes, adequate levels of Muni service have proven timeless.

Thankfully, THD has for 50 years now fought important battles to ensure that the San Francisco of tomorrow bears a strong memory of its varied and colorful history. Informed and concerned groups of neighbors coming together to take action is precisely what has allowed San Francisco

to maintain its character and charm over the last century as the population exploded and the pressure to bulldoze and build has intensified.

This organization has fought the battles, both large and small, to protect the Northeast Waterfront, to keep high-rise buildings off the Hill, to create neighborhood parking zones, to establish historic districts and preserve our architectural treasures, and so much more. Cheers to a happy 50th birthday, Telegraph Hill Dwellers! ✂



At THE CANNERY we've developed a solid team of top local chefs and entertainers, committed to bringing quality dining and nightlife experiences for locals. Peter and Anna Huson recently moved their 25-year-old dining establishment, Tre Fratelli Pasta Caffee e Ristorante (Ristorante I Fratelli) from Russian Hill into the courtyard.

They are working together with Steve Groves and The Green Room Comedy Club to continue to bring the world's most talented comics to San Francisco. Currently, Mick Suerkrubbe and his partners from the neighborhood restaurants, Cosmopolitan and Cozmo's, are renovating our Jefferson and Beach corner property and will open their new venture, Dirty Martini, this month.

### NOW OPEN at THE CANNERY



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Del Monte Square is located at the foot of Columbus Avenue, overlooking the Bay. This historic block is home to THE CANNERY's 35 shops, restaurants and nightclubs, The Argonaut Hotel, The San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and Visitors Center, a Certified Organic Farmers Market, and much more.

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## THD Board Motions FOR THE MONTHS OF DEC. 2003, MAY, JUNE, JULY 2004

### MAY, 2004 MOTIONS

MOTION: THD shall form a special committee called the Schools Committee that will be chaired by Mary Jo Ellen and that will create support opportunities for neighborhood schools and after school programs.

MOTION: THD approves Mr. Jeff Dorsey, CPA, to conduct a pro bono audit of THD's accounting records and communicate recommendations, if any, to the board upon completion of the audit.

MOTION: THD approves a donation of \$ 1,000 to the 2004 Upper Grant Avenue Fall Arts Fair.

MOTION: THD will write a letter to ISCOTT outlining three major concerns relating to the 2004 North Beach Festival and clarify in the letter that THD is not opposing this year's Festival but expects changes to be incorporated into the plans for next year's North Beach Festival. The three areas of concern include:

- Not enough local representation at the fair.
- Inadequate policing and security at the event (with a need to improve the protection of the grass on Washington Square Park and to improve post-festival clean-up).
- Amount of alcohol sold at the event.

### JUNE, 2004

#### MOTIONS

MOTION: The board unanimously approved the budget that had been proposed by the prior board (as outlined in April, 2004 THD Board Packet).

MOTION: The Board unanimously approved

the appointment of Marc Bruno as the chair of the Beautification Committee.

### JULY, 2004 MOTIONS

MOTION: A motion was made to write a letter to the San Francisco Recreation & Park Department on behalf of THD stating that THD is unable to support the Columbus Day Festival due to 1) several neighborhood groups concerns, including Friends of Washington Square, Sts. Peter & Paul, and the Russian Hill Neighbors, 2) the manner in which event was planned because there have been extensive discrepancies between written and verbal proposals, and 3) concerns of about the lack of advance planning for the event. THD is willing to work with the group in the future.

MOTION: Regarding the upcoming June 2005 North Beach Festival, we strongly urge a neighborhood meeting which includes representatives from ISCOTT, the Department of Recreation and Parks, Central Station and the North Beach Chamber of Commerce in order to address concerns regarding the Festival as it presently exists. We believe these concerns need to be resolved before the issuance of a permit for the 2005 Festival.



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# Hello Neighbor!

There's good news for our Russian Hill, Telegraph Hill, North Beach and Marina neighbors. **THE CANNERY** Farmers Market at Del Monte Square has hand-picked 25 of California's best organic farmers to offer you quality fruits, vegetables, fish and flowers.

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## Beautification Committee Has Present, Future Plans

by Marc Bruno

The THD Beautification Committee has been resurrected and new projects are germinating.

We want to plant flowers and add complementing elements (brick work, pebbles) to create "micro-gardens" on the Columbus Avenue median strip between Vallejo and Lombard. The gardens would be modeled on the median-strip garden created by Cia Orden across from her gift shop, Abitare, near the corner of Green and Columbus.

Additionally, we want to find ways to expand the Grant Avenue Clean-up Program to other areas of the neighborhood blighted by litter and graffiti. We are looking at alleys parallel to Grant Avenue (Varennnes, for example), the Montgomery

Street Steps between Union and Green, and the Macchiarini (Kearny Street) Steps.

In another initiative, we worked with Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center to introduce the third- and fourth-grade summer school classes to the "Clean City Coalition Neighborhood Clean-up." We invited these students to paint picture-posters to advertise this event which took place Aug. 11 at Tel-Hi.

*Beautification Committee members include Marc Bruno, Dorothy Danielson, Dawne Bernhardt and June Osterberg. In addition, Kathleen Dooley and Mary Jo Ellen have agreed to assist the committee on special projects.*

# The Recipe of the Month

As Telegraph Hill denizens know, Brian and Pierre of Speedy's New Grocery provide some of the best takeout food available in our corner of the city. For those who would like to try one of their latest creations at home they provide these instructions:

## Gnocchi Carbonara (egg free)

### Preparation

Fry bacon until nearly crisp. Remove excess oil with a paper towel and set aside.

Bring water to a boil (add salt if desired). Add the gnocchi. Fresh gnocchi cooks very fast, so make sure to stir occasionally. Cook for 3 or 4 minutes. The gnocchi should feel soft and spongy but never mushy. Drain gnocchi and put aside.

In a saucepan, pour the cream and bring to a medium heat, letting it thicken. Do not let boil. Then add bacon and gnocchi. Add black pepper and salt if desired. Sprinkle generously with parmesan.

This recipe serves two people for a main course or can provide a delicious appetizer for up to four.

This quick and easy version of carbonara invites variations, such as green peas or red peppers.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 package of San Genano Gnocchi (about 500 gr. or 1 lb.) or any other fresh gnocchi of your choice
- 2 quarts of water
- 1/2 pt. whipping cream (half and half can be substituted)
- 1/2 lb. of bacon, cut in small pieces
- grated parmesan
- salt and fresh ground pepper



## Sean O'Donnell HANDYMAN

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except a fallen soufflé."

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Local & neighborhood references.

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237 Greenwich Street (left)  
and 10 Napier Lane (below)



## The Semaphore: The Back of the Book

**1985-1996:** During THD's fourth decade, Semaphore writers were keeping an eye on waterfront developments, the possibility of lights in Washington Square, the pervasive noise of helicopters and many other important issues. But there were also the little stories that would drift away in the mists of historical ephemera if our publication had not recorded them. Here are some of them:

**1985:** The Semaphore gets a computer. The editor envisions some future time "when all writers will be able to submit their copy on discs."

At the Grant Street Fair, THD recruits forty-eight new members and sells out of copies of David Myrick's *Telegraph Hill*.

**1986:** Warner Brothers tries to make amends for disruptive filming in the neighborhood by making a significant donation to THD tree planting efforts.

THD supports Supervisor Hongisto's proposal opposing a downtown baseball stadium.

At Halloween, 150 Jack-o-Lanterns are on display on the Filbert and Greenwich steps. But the neighbors question the festivity as visitors overrun the

neighborhood.

THD reinforces its wariness about district election of supervisors, taking no position on upcoming ballot measure.

**1989:** Mrs. Eccles, the owner of the apartment building at Lombard and Telegraph Hill Boulevard, plants a huge American flag atop her building. Neighbors wonder if the flag's almost ceaseless flapping may not violate the city's noise ordinances.

Speedy's sells out of ice, candles and batteries minutes after the October earthquake strikes.

*continued on page 28*

# COLDWELL BANKER

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10. "Gem of A Realtor, Grazie" - V. Z., Esq, 2004

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# Parks & Trees Report

by *Julienne M. Christensen-*

## Washington Square

**COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND:** By the time you read this, this year's Columbus Day weekend celebration will have past, but readers may want to know that the events that occurred in Washington Square over those days were considerably scaled back from those the organizers originally planned.

On July 15, the Rec and Park Commission heard from the sponsors of a proposed three-day event in the square, and also from members of the community, including representatives of THD, Friends of Washington Square, and Sts. Peter and Paul School. Neighbors welcomed the idea of expanded activities related to the parade, but were concerned about group's lack of experience in this type of event, the proposed three-day duration, and the cordoning off of the park for private gain during one of the neighborhood's busiest weekends of the year. As originally proposed, the Sunday events would also have provided serious competition to Sts. Peter and Paul's annual school fundraiser, now in its 60th year.

With pressure from the commission, a compromise was reached. It called for a dinner/dance and Columbus Day Court presentation on Friday night. A large tent was erected for this event, but it was placed on the west (Columbus Avenue) side of the park, not along Stockton Street, as originally proposed. On Saturday, a paid admission wine and food tasting occupied the same tent. On Sunday, the day of the parade, no event, other than the traditional car display, was held in the square.

The parade itself has a long history, but the current sponsoring group evolved only a couple of years ago. Neighbors encouraged the parade organizers to, in the future, involve more local

residents in planning and in the parade itself.

**PAVING TEST:** Custom color samples are being prepared for a sample installation of an alternative pavement being considered for the park. The alternative material, a concrete aggregate, is more porous and less toxic than the asphalt currently used, better for both the park's vegetation and its visitors. The test area, in the southeast corner near Union and Stockton, should be installed this fall. Representatives of THD and Friends of Washington Square have been involved in plans for the test.

## Joe DiMaggio Playground

**THE TRIANGLE:** On August 5, the Rec and Park Commission met to determine whether Rec and Park should transfer \$1.8 million into an account for purchase of the 701 Lombard triangle. The hearing was widely attended by members of THD, Friends of Joe Dimaggio Playground, the Chinatown Committee for Better Parks, the Chinatown Community Development Center, and the Tel-Hi Neighborhood Center. Commissioners Murray, Chin, Lazarus and Guggenheimer voted in favor of the transfer.

The property will now be officially appraised for the purpose of acquisition. It is a lengthy process. Guesstimates suggest that ownership of the property will not be transferred to Rec and Park until this time next year.

**WORK PARTY:** The Friends of Joe DiMaggio Playground and THD raised \$1,000 for paint and materials and sponsored a work party at Joe DiMaggio Playground on Saturday, Aug. 21. The kick-off was attended by Ed Lee, head of DPW, by Mohammed Nuru, by Yomi Agunbiade, acting head of RecPark, and by Joe Padilla, head of RecPark's painting department. City employees supervised about 30 to 40 volunteers as they

*continued on page 29*

## THE SEMAPHORE: THE BACK OF THE BOOK *continued from page 25*

THD Board encourages a plan where major developers, building family-sized units, would be required to make child-care contributions to Tel-Hi.

The obituary of Curtis Baldwin, former THD president, reports that Baldwin organized collection and distribution of food for the needy at the Church of Saint Francis. He did this until the charity had to be abandoned because of complaints from residents that the food line was unsightly and “detracted from the ambience of North Beach.”

*The Semaphores* from this year report the following little known facts about some THD members:

Helen von Ammon regularly volunteers in Alaska, feeding and caring for musk oxen, collecting their underwool which she uses in her knitting business.

As a teenager, former THD President Rod Freebairn-Smith was a radio actor in Hollywood.

Gerry Crowley was a Dodgers fan for far too many years before seeing the light.

**1990:** At a THD social event the original game “Hilopoly” is introduced. Like Monopoly, the idea was to acquire “books” of cards representing, in this case, landmarks, cafes, bakeries and restaurants. The hope was that activities such as this might attract the “younger rock and roll set.”

**1992:** The North Beach Fair, which had previously been the Grant Avenue Street Fair, this year becomes the North Beach Festival and expands to Washington Square.

The *Semaphore* reports on the many years Jack Early (as in Jack Early Park) has orchestrated a campaign that has sent millions of used Christmas cards to missionaries of all faiths, orphanages, hospitals and schools through out the world.

A telephone tree is established by the THD crime committee. When suspicious activity is observed in the neighborhood, a telephone tree member would check with Central Station, than set the tree in motion to get the word out.

**1993:** The “smoke free” Caffé Verdi, a first of its kind, is opened at 1326 Grant Ave. by Hill Dweller David Vanini.

THD offers competition to Bay to Breakers with first annual Tower to Town Walk, part treasure hunt, part feast at five official stopping points.

**1994:** Gardner Haskell, North Beach librarian, provides a list of 80 authors who have lived in the area and published at least one book. The list ranges from Ambrose Bierce to former Semaphore editors Clyde Steiner and Cheryl Bentley.

THD sponsors North Beach Writers Reception at Enrico’s.

**1995:** *The Semaphore* recounts how, according to Bob Katz, one of the founders of THD, the organization settled on the name Telegraph Hill Dwellers. “The original name was to be the Telegraph Hill Property Owners Association and then we decided, no, Telegraph Hill is such an extraordinary place and so inhabited by renters that they should certainly be included. So Nancy (Katz’s wife), with her flair for the dramatic, came up with the name.”

**1996:** Pioneer Park renovation plans begin with the slogan “Resetting the Jewel,” the jewel being Coit Tower. It was actually neighborhood uproar about a city-proposed chain link fence separating the park from Telegraph Hill Boulevard that touched off the project. At the time, Semaphore editor Pat Cady commented that the fence would “leave visitors wondering whether the trip to Coit Tower was really an extension of the Alcatraz Tour.”

*Semaphore* readers learn that the sculptures seen on the roof of Bert and Mary Tomkin’s home at Lombard and Telegraph Hill were placed there because the commissioned work was too large to fit through the doorway.

Maud Hallin shares her recipe for discouraging those persistent Hill pests, raccoons: “I’ve found that raccoons do not share my taste for chilies. I crush very strong chili peppers that can stick between their little toes. This is an effective way of (making these critters unwelcome).”



## PARKS & TREES REPORT *continued from page 27*

painted playground equipment and the park's retaining walls and external benches. The one-day makeover was a big success. Volunteers were disappointed when less than a week later vandals graffitied the newly painted walls. But Rec and Park painters responded immediately and the blight was quickly painted out.

**LIBRARY:** We are still trying to assess the effect of the departure of Susan Hildreth, head librarian, for her new role as state librarian in Sacramento. Susan was a big proponent of a creative solution to the needs of the North Beach Branch Library, and had promised help in seeking grants and other aid to extend the \$3 million budgeted by the city for renovation alone. Representatives of THD will continue to meet with library officials to forge the best solution for the neighborhood's branch library.

**POOL:** LC Construction continues to make progress and is regaining lost time in the schedule.-

### Helen Wills Playground

The fund for new furniture and equipment for the park and clubhouse received a big boost this month: a \$17,000 donation from the Syzygy Foundation.

The project hit a major snag when the selected playground manufacturing company, which recently changed owners, defaulted on several deadlines and finally withdrew from the project. A previously considered supplier

has agreed to create the playground elements as designed and contracts are being negotiated. Construction proceeds on schedule, and we are hoping the fabrication of the playground equipment will not slow the project significantly.

Sadly, the new clubhouse was badly defaced by graffiti in late August. It was the first test of the glazed block selected for the project partly because of its resistance to dirt and graffiti. The ugly black spray paint was removed from several locations on the building. -

### Fight Back against Graffiti Vandalism!

"Tagging" incidents at both Helen Wills Park and Joe DiMaggio Playground have disheartened volunteers who have spent so much personal time working to improve neighborhood facilities. Help us fight back!

If you see graffiti on Rec and Park property, call the Rec and Park supervisor for our area, Sandra Choate, at 274-0291.

Graffiti on other private or city property (as well as trash dumping) can be reported to the wonderful and effective 28-CLEAN number (282-2536).

But, best of all, help us nab the jerks. The perpetrators must be caught in the act. If you witness one of these acts of vandalism and can identify the culprits (license number, physical description, etc.), contact the police at the non-emergency number, 553-0123. ✂



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# THD Welcomes New Members

May 2004 to July 2004

Enide Allison, Victoire & Shashi Batra, Charles Escobar Belle, Robert Bernard, Charles & Mary Condry, Jon Golinger, Therese Grenchik & Lee Goodin, Dr. Raymnd Isola, Teresa Johnson & Daria Janese, Anne Kaplan, Sally Towse & Burton Kendall, Bill & Mary Lou Keyworth, Jeff & Lisa Lem, Wilson & Vivian Lem, Mary Jane & Neal Lozins, Nancy Dixon & David Mauldin, April & Mark Meyerson, Anneke Seley & Jack Oswald, Kathleen T. & D. Andrew Sirkin, Helen Smelser Daube, Jay Folberg & Diana Taylor, Dee Whalen, Carmen White, Bill Leung & Lillian Wong, and Michael Yancey.

*Fog Hill Market*

Hanna Chedyak

415-781-8817

1300 Kearny

San Francisco, CA 94133

*For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.*

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Sign Up or Sign a Friend Up as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Individual \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$40 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior (age 65 and over) \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

# THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**Parking and Transportation.** Chair, Bill Seelinger, 392-8450  
billseel@aol.com. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic.

**Planning and Zoning.** Chair, Jeannie Milligan, Jeanne\_M@pacbell.net. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues.

**Semaphore.** Editor, Art Peterson 956-7817; artpeterson@writingproject.org. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

**Program.** Chair, Maxine Schulman, 981-4042; BigMaxSF@aol.com. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

**Budget.** Greg Chiampou, 834-9338; gchiampou@att.net. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

**Membership.** Chair, Tom Noyes, 981-8520; tom@noyesfamily.com. As prescribed in Bylaws for Financial Secretary.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

**Parks and Trees.** Chair, Julieanne Christensen, 989-0882, julie@surfaces.com. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

**Oral History Project** Chair, Audrey Tomaselli, 391-1792; tmsli@earthlink.net. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

**THD Web Site.** Webmaster, Tom Noyes, 981-8520; webmaster@thd.org. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

## LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods.** Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. City-wide organization interacts with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

**North Beach Neighborhood Coalition.** Representative, Gerry Crowley, 781-4201; gerrycrowley@aol.com. Tel-Hi-sponsored group of residents, merchants and government agencies working together to address neighborhood issues.

**N.E.R.T.** June Fraps, 392-1187; junefraps@juno.com. Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.



## **WEB SITE = [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org)**

Whether you want to catch up on THD's Oral Histories, see what the THD is up to, or submit old photos of the Hill, [www.thd.org](http://www.thd.org) is the place to go. Use the Web site to discover or email information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between *Semaphores*.

# sem.a.phore

*DEFINITION: To convey information using visual signals, such as flags, lights and mechanical arms.*

In the 19th century, Telegraph Hill was a lookout spot. A man stood at the top and watched for ships arriving through the Golden Gate. He used semaphore signals to spell out ships' names to the people below who were waiting for goods and mail. Neighbors who formed Telegraph Hill Dwellers in 1954 named their newsletter to salute this early use of the Hill.

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS  
P. O. BOX 330159  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133

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## THD CALENDAR

Second Saturday stair and garden work parties at Pioneer Park: November 13, December 11. For more information call 552-7774.

### November

8: General membership  
dinner—Caeser's.

### December

Annual Holiday Party,  
Julius' Castle.

Dates and locations subject to change. For information about the organization's 50th anniversary, see page 8

### Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: First Thursdays. Call for time and location.  
986-7070.

For more information, log on to <http://www.thd.org>